

6/23/78

A/DDA: *h*

DDA:

Subject: Humorous Aspects of Spying

1. While I have often thought of the fun stories one could tell about a career with the Agency, I think the publication of a lighter side of our work could be disastrous. There is a fine line between humor involved in one's work and the possible criticism of not taking work seriously, wasting the taxpayers' dollar and inverting humorous incidents into flaps and goofs by the organization. While the suggester proposes an "inhouse" publication, I feel it could be well-nigh disastrous if the publication got outside. To classify humorous stories would be subject to ridicule. To not classify, would find the publication open to the public.

2. If my thoughts are not consistent with others who might review this suggestion, I would propose that the person responsible for the central office selected to collect these anecdotes be referred to as the "Good Humor Man".

Mike
Tells and this
to (Leah) Peter for review

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U N C L A S S I F I E D

SUGGESTION:

During the past few years our Agency has suffered great morale problems. Personnel have lost that team spirit once so prevalent and strong. To offer a new kind of morale booster, I propose an "Inhouse" publication of the lighter side of our work. Never before have we gathered the humorous aspects of spying. It would offer an opportunity to laugh with and at ourselves. I'm sure so many employees have at least one good story to share.

I feel sure that this would whet interests and bring humor to the forefront, something we so greatly need at this time.

A central office could be selected to collect these anecdotes, Security could even sterilize the stories, and an inexpensive booklet could be compiled. On a lesser scale, perhaps one or two of these humorous stories could be incorporated in your letters or employee bulletins.

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X 4060 DDO/EUR/PERS
X 6913

SENDER WILL CHECK		CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM	
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	[REDACTED]		<i>[Signature]</i>
2			
3	Public Affairs (Attn: Heta)		
4			
5			
6			
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
<p><i>Per Jack's note. Please transfer action to Public Affairs</i></p>			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
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FORM NO. 1-67

237

Use previous editions

(40)

DD/A Registry
File *Pers 2-2*

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DD/A Registry
File *Pers 2-2*

DD/A 78-2514/1

14 JUL 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

DDO/EUR/Personnel

STATINTL

FROM:

John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT:

Your Suggestion to Publish an "Inhouse"
Publication, dated 23 June 1978

1. Thank you for your interest in contributing a suggestion to enhance the Agency's morale. One certainly recognizes the need for a sense of humor and I think, in general, this has not been lacking among employees of the Agency.

2. While there may be merit to printing an "Inhouse" publication on the lighter side of our work, one must consider the implications of such a piece. Humor is a subjective thing and very difficult to institutionalize. Obviously, what is humorous to one person is not humorous to another. While it might be worth taking a chance on offending some while pleasing others, it must be recognized that to classify a publication devoted to humor would be viewed as an abuse of the classification system. If unclassified, it could hardly remain "Inhouse." Beyond a doubt, it would find its way into the public sector - quite simply through FOIA channels, if no other. Criticism from the outside can be predicted on the basis of not taking our work seriously and wasting the taxpayers' money. One can be sure that humorous incidents can be converted to flaps and goofs.

3. We do appreciate your thoughtful suggestion. While its intention is laudable, it cannot be viewed outside of the context of the almost certain adverse affect it could have on the Agency. On the other hand, I trust that a good sense of humor will continue to pervade the institution and I hope you do your best to encourage it.

/s/ Jack Blake

John F. Blake

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Distribution:

Orig - [REDACTED]

1 - DDA Chrono

1-JFB Chrono

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Approved For Release 2001/07/12 : CIA-RDP81-00142R000400080006-7

1 - C/BSD/OP

Originator: [REDACTED]

EO/DDA;se/13 July 78

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)			
FROM: Suggestion Box Program c/o C/BSO/OP 5 E 56, Hq. <i>ES</i>		EXTENSION 4078	NO. <i>78-2514</i> DATE 23 June 1978
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)		DATE RECEIVED FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. EO/DDA 7 D 18, Hq.		<i>6/23</i>	<i>S</i>
2.			
3.			
4. Mr. H. Hetu Ass't to DCI/Public Affairs STATINTL VIA TUBE		<i>6-27</i>	<i>H</i>
5. [REDACTED]			
6. [REDACTED]			
7. EO/DDA BX-4			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

The attached is a suggestion which was received through the DCI's "Suggestion Box" Program.

Action - 6-27
I concur with
[REDACTED] - a nice idea but impossible to implement

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DD/A Registry
78-2514

U N C L A S S I F I E D

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